(c) whether he was approached by some Members of Christian community regarding a 400 years old church situated in the SEEPZ vicinity; and

(d) if so, his response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Minister of Commerce and Industry visited the SEEPZ Special Economic Zone, Mumbai on 16th July, 2004 to discuss the issues relating to exports from the Zone with representatives of the trade and industry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Minister assured the community representatives that their problems would be suitably addressed.

WTO Meet in Paris

1173. SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some important Member States of the WTO had a meeting in Paris in July, 2004 to resolve the deadlock in the WTO talks on agriculture;

(b) if so, the proposal made by India at the meet and response of USA and the European Union thereto; and

(c) the progress made in the talks for preparation of the framework agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Brazil and India represented the G-20 group of like-minded countries on agriculture during this meeting, and presented the proposals of the G-20 towards developing a framework on agriculture that, *inter alia*, ensure that trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries are substantially reduced, their export subsidies eliminated, and market access opportunities for products of export interest to developing countries improve substantially. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs.

(c) On 1st August, 2004, a Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture has been agreed to by consensus in the meeting of the General Council of the WTO. The Framework duly addresses India's concerns.